

SLIP CASTING

' From Plaster Molds

Slip-casting is a process of filling a plaster mold with casting slip (liquid clay) to create a clay object. The plaster mold pulls the water out of the liquid clay. As more and more of the moisture is drawn out, a layer of solid clay is deposited around the interior of the mold. When this layer of clay is of exactly the right thickness, the remaining liquid clay in the center is poured off and a hollow cast is left to harden.

History of Slip Casting

- This process was introduced into many European porcelain factories in the eighteenth century, and was commonly employed for the casting of terra cotta sculpture in the nineteenth century.
- Today you may find that many common things you have such as: figurines, doll faces, dishes, flower pots, lamp bases, toilets, etc. are made from this technique of mass production.

Slip Casting Requirements

- Using two different molds create the series in a mold. Some may only have one in a mold and some smaller molds have multiple pieces / figurines.
- Depending on your choice, you may also need to slip pieces together.
- Either way all pieces will need to be trimmed before they dry.

Mask Project

- A mask is defined as a covering for your face with eyeholes usually carved out for function.
- Masks can be functional, recreational, and or decorative.
- Examples of masks from all different cultures can be found online or in books and magazines.
 - <http://www.artlex.com/>

Mask Requirements:

- Create a hollow form or a form no thicker than an inch all around. You may use a mask mold for this process or create your own from scratch.
- Min. height size of 8 inches, no larger than 12 inches.
- You may choose to create a human form or some other creature for the mask.
- This piece needs to be reflective of who you are as an individual; you must somehow incorporate a min. of 3 different things into the piece regarding who you are.
- Be creative with adding relief decoration, carving, and / or painting designs with either acrylic paint or glaze to reflect who you are as an individual.

Other Options:

- You may add other materials to the piece after it has been fired to give it a unique touch, such as yarn, feathers, beads, jewels, wire, etc. (some you may have to purchase on your own)
- Plan ahead! If you want to hang something off of the face... holes may need to be punched in before it has been fired.
- You may want to create the mask in a way that it can be hung on the wall once completed, if so keep in mind how to hang it and how it will balance on the wall.

*Your grade for the project will reflect meeting the requirements, being creative, craftsmanship, and time / effort you put into your piece.